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Chief, St/PR

6 October 1955

Chief, D/M

Comments on Draft Concerning Exchanges of Documentary Materials
and Exhibits with the USSR

1. The writing of such a paper is complicated by the fact that the U.S. is suffering from ignorance as to what published material exists in the USSR which would be made available to us in such an exchange. By and large, we believe that some published material is available which would be of use to us, but we are not aware of any specific publications. It is very likely that a large part of the material which we would like to receive and which we think in terms of receiving in such an exchange is actually classified planning documents, both technological and scientific, which would not be released to us in any event.

2. There is an assumption implicit in this paper that the release of technological and scientific journals would result in the acquisition of information of use to us. We feel a distinction should be made between the release of publications and the release of information. USSR journals comparable to U.S. journals may not contain comparable information.

3. On page 4, item 6, "Publications", the statement is made that the attempts by the USSR to obtain a free exchange of publications indicates a failure on their part to effect procurement to the greatest degree possible. We do not feel this is necessarily true. Free exchange would make procurement much easier for them and simplicity may well be their only goal. It is contradicted by the statement made in 6.f. on pages 6 and 7 concerning their knowledge of the existence of most U.S. monographs and dissertations and their ability to obtain these upon request.

4. Under 6.e. on page 6, "Technical Publications in Scientific Fields", we feel that net gain would be to the USSR. In most fields they lag behind us and consequently have more to learn from us than we from them.

5. Under 8, "Patents", include a statement concerning the receipt of "Gost" standards.

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